

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0162

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 00206

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 10272

1. I HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM A THREE-HOURS SESSION WITH FAHMY AT THE BEACH. FAHMY CONTINUES TO BE IN A BAD MOOD. HE IS ANNOYED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ACCEPTED WHAT HE PERSISTS IN REGARDING AS ISRAELI INSPIRED LANGUAGE AND MADE CONCESSIONS WHICH HE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE. HE CLAIMS HE WAS READY TO RESIGN YESTERDAY, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SENSED THIS AND THEREFORE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH HIS DELEGATION. SADAT HAS ASKED HIM NOT TO RESIGN AND FAHMY CLAIMS HE RESPONDED THAT HE WILL NOT DO SO NOW. HOWEVER, HE DENIES ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS AGREEMENT WHICH, HE IS CONVINCED WILL BE BADLY RECEIVED IN THE ARAB WORLD.

2. UPON MY RETURN TO RAS EL TIN, I FOUND THE REFERENCED CABLE AND TELEPHONED FAHMY TO REITERATE INITIALLING HERE WILL, FOR ALL PRACTICAL REASONS, HAVE TO BE TONIGHT. WE REGRET

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ANY INCONVENIENCE, BUT IT IS THE VERY BEST WE CAN

DO. FAHMY THEN EXPRESSED A NEW CONCERN. ONCE THE ISRAELIS INITIAL SOMETIME THIS AFTERNOON, HE EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL RELEASE THE TEXTS AND THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS WILL HAVE THEM EVEN BEFORE EGYPTIAN INITIALLING TAKES PLACE. THIS WILL PLACE SADAT IN A HIGHLY EMBARRASSING POSITION.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT OUR SUGGESTION OF A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN ALEXANDRIA, JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON WAS INTENDED TO INSURE THAT NEITHER OF THE PARTIES MOVE OUT AHEAD OF THE OTHERS. HIS REJECTION OF THIS IDEA ADMITTEDLY PLACES EGYPT IN A POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING SITUATION. DID HE NOT WISH TO RECONSIDER? FAHMY ADAMANTLY REFUSED. HE ASKED THAT YOU INSURE ISRAELIS DO NOT REPEAT NOT RELEASE TEXTS UNTIL AFTER EGYPTIAN INITIALLING TAKES PLACE WHEN ALL PARTIES CAN DO SO.

4. FAHMY IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO HAVE RECONFIRMATION OF WHEN KNESSET DEBATE WILL TAKE PLACE SO THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN SCHEDULE HIS TALK TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND THE ASU. HE RECALLED THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED LAST NIGHT THAT HE WANTS TO DO THIS AFTER THE ISRAELI KNESSET HAS DEBATED AND APPROVED THE AGREEMENT.
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